

"10 We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. 11 For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. 12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. 13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. 14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. 15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. 16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. 17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you. 18 ¶ Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. 19 But I beseech *you* the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. 20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen. 22 And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words. 23 Know ye that *our* brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you. 24 Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you. 25 Grace *be* with you all. Amen." (Heb 13:10-25 AV)

There are a few things I would like to say about this text this morning, after a few preliminary remarks. The book of Hebrews was written to Christian Jews to prepare them for the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the passing away of the old order of worship, the order that had been established by Moses and the prophets. The things I want to say are these:

I. There is a New Testament; II. There is a New Altar and Worship; III There is a New Order. IV. God is the Same.

I. There is a New Testament.

A. There was an Old Testament, a covenant established with Israel and detailed by Moses.

B. At the heart of this covenant was the offering of bulls and goats and lambs on the altar of the tabernacle in the wilderness and then on the altar of the great temple built by Solomon and rebuilt by Nehemiah and completely redone by Herod the Great. This temple of destroyed in 70 AD and all worship there ceased and today the second most holy Mosque of Islam sits on the site of the Temple.

C. This worship was never intended to continue, because the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin.

1. See Hebrews 9:11-15

2. See Hebrews 10:11-18 The old offering has ceased and can never be offered in faith again.

D. Jesus said, "This is the New Testament in my blood" Not the blood of animals which sanctified the Old Testament, but my blood which sanctifies the New Testament.

II. There is therefore a New Altar and a New Worship

- A. There is a New Altar, for Christ was not offered on the Altar of the Temple, but on the Cross.
1. This Offering was made once for all, and therefore there are no more Altars. There should be no altars in Christian Churches for there are no offerings for sins.
 2. Those who serve the Jewish altars have no right to each of the Altar of Christ—that is, they do not benefit from His sacrifice. Those under the law of sin and death have no right to eat at the supper of the Lord. Your right to participate is your confession of faith in Christ and repentance of your sins. We will see that
 3. Only Israel could eat of the Altar in Jerusalem; the uncircumcised were not permitted to eat. Those who eat of the Altar of Christ’s sacrifice have a right to eat only if they are baptized and believe the Gospel. As Peter said on the Day of Pentecost.
 4. There is a great warning in Scripture to those who would eat unworthily..
- B. There is therefore a new Temple and a New worship:
1. The New Temple is the Church:
 - a. 1Ti 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
 - b. 1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
 2. The New Worship is spiritual and the sacrifices are spiritual: sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving. In the church we remember the death and resurrection of our Lord and offer up praise to Him, and thanksgiving for His blessings.
 3. We do not offer up Christ again, but ourselves as living sacrifices, purified by the blood of Christ.
 4. Those who do not believe have no right to eat of this altar, but they defile it and pollute it.

III. There is a new order.

A. Three times in this chapter we are called to submit to those who “rule” over us.

1. Vs. 7: Remember them.
2. Vs. 17: Obey them
3. Vs. 24: Salute them

B. Christ has established order in His Church: See Heb. 10:16-31

1. Although the old order, based upon the sacrifice of animals has passed away, the sacrifice of Christ does not leave the people of God without order, where everyone does as he pleases.
2. This order is described in vs. 19-31
 - a. There is a new way into the presence of God. The Old Temple is done away, but the holiest is still there, through the broken flesh of Jesus Christ.
 - b. There is a high priest: Christ in heaven, the head of the church and our worship.
 - c. There must be faith and baptism: vs. 22-23
 - d. There must be a commitment to one another. Vs. 24
 - e. There must be an assembly of the saints. Vs. 25
 - f. There are solemn warnings, that apart from the church and this sacrifice there is no other way to obtain forgiveness of sins: Vs. 26-31.

IV. God is the same, though the order has changed since the coming of Christ.

A. He requires submission and obedience to the faith. "Submit one to another in the fear of God." We do not enter heaven on our own terms, but on his. The church is the order that He established, not us.

B. He requires that His sacrifices be holy and pure:

1. At the heart of worship is the offering up of ourselves to God. Romans 12:1,2
2. Two things required: Faith in the true Christ and the Living God; Sorrow for our sins.
3. We are to come together for the better, not the worse: 1Cor. 11:17-34
4. Negatively: 1Cor. 5:11-13
5. The church is not to be excessively severe, but built upon mercy and grace, but a confession of faith, baptism, and a fitness to examine oneself is fundamental to the right participation in the Lord Supper.

There are a great many more things that could be said in connection with what has gone before, but this has been the confession of the church in all its major parts from the beginning.